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BILLESDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1938.

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BILLESDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1938.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure to present my thirty-seventh Annual Report on the Health of your District.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Approximate area (in acres)	49,628
Population Census 1921	7,283
Population Census 1931	11,073
Estimated resident population 1938	6,294
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938) ..	2,042
Rateable value	£29,604
Sum represented by a penny rate	£113

Social Conditions.

The District is essentially agricultural, most of the land being grazed.

Save in the parishes near Leicester which are largely residential in character and which have rapidly developed, the population has been declining or stationary for many years. The reduced population since the last Census is due to the extension of the City of Leicester in 1935.

Vital Statistics.

Births, legitimate	M. 39	F. 42	Total	81
" illegitimate	M. 2	F. 1	Total	3
	41	43		84

Still-births .. .. .. legitimate	2
Birth-rate	13·3
Birth-rate for England & Wales	15·1

Deaths:	Males 38.	Females 28.	Total 66

Crude Death-rate	10·4
Comparative Death-rate (allowing for age & sex distribution)	9·4
Death-rate for England & Wales	11·6

Deaths of Infants under one year of age - 4 (all legitimate)

Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 births	47
Infant Mortality Rate for England & Wales	53

Causes of Death.

	Males.	Females.
All Causes.	38	28
Diphtheria	-	1
Influenza	1	-
Respiratory tuberculosis	1	2
Other tuberculosis	-	-
Syphilis	1	-
Cancer	4	9
Diabetes	-	-
Cerebral haemorrhage etc.	4	2
Heart disease	6	3
Other circulatory diseases	3	1
Bronchitis	1	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	3	3
Peptic ulcer	-	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	-	-
Appendicitis	1	-
Cirrhosis of the liver	1	-
Other digestive diseases	2	-
Nephritis	1	-
Puerperal sepsis	-	-
Other puerperal causes	-	-
Congenital causes	-	1
Senility	1	-
Suicide	1	-
Other violence	3	2
Other defined causes	4	2

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

The particulars furnished in previous Annual Reports are still applicable, no special alterations or developments having taken place during the year.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority:-

The Medical Officer of Health acts for the Leicestershire & Rutland Combined Districts in which this District is included. He will be retired on 1st July.

The Sanitary Inspector is also Surveyor and is a whole time officer.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water:-

The Leicester Corporation's water is laid on in parishes adjoining Leicester and in the village of Great Glen. The mains are now being extended to Houghton-on-the-Hill and Billesdon at a cost of about £9,800.

Eighteen samples of well water which were analysed during the year proved unsuitable for drinking. 13 wells were cleansed or repaired and in 119 instances the public supply was laid on in lieu of well-water. There are 19 parishes without a piped supply including Tilton where there has been a shortage. There is also a shortage at Owston through ineffective distribution. I have advised extension of the Leicester Corporation's supply to Burton Overy, most of the well waters which I have analysed being contaminated.

Drainage & Sewerage:-

There have been extensions of sewers at Church Lane, Great Glen and at Scraptoft Lane. Owing to pollution of the brook I had occasion to advise a sewerage scheme at Stoughton.

Closet Accommodation:-

Approximate number in District	(1)	Privies	120
	(2)	Pail Closets	1,392
	(3)	Water Closets	459

Privies, Pail or Earth Closets:	No. converted to W.C's	2
Privies:	No. converted to pail closets.	2

Public Cleansing:-

The parishes of Thurnby, Scraptoft, Houghton, Hungarton, Stoughton, Billesdon and Tilton are now scavenged by direct labour, the refuse being disposed of by a well managed system of controlled tipping at a suitable site in the parish of Stoughton. There is also provision for the emptying of cesspools in these parishes. Cesspools are however far too numerous and their number is increasing, for although 9 were abolished during the year, 50 were constructed. The total number in the District at the end of the year is given as 363.

Great Glen and Burton Overy are scavenged by Contractors without suitable transport and without controlled tipping. It is far from satisfactory and I am of opinion that these and indeed all the larger villages should be included in the Council's scheme.

Sanitary Inspection:-

Total No. of complaints received for the year		184
" " " inspections made for all purposes		1,006
" " " notices served - Informal 47, Statutory 24,	Total	71
" " " summonses issued		Nil

Smoke Abatement:-

No nuisances have come under observation during the year.

Shops:-

Rural. No faults reported.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-Laws and Regulations:-

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the District and there are no Offensive Trades. Two inspections of vans and sheds are recorded.

Eradication of Bed-bugs:-

No cases in Council houses came under observation. Only one infested dwelling house was located. Disinfestation with "Zaldecide" was carried out by the Local Authority.

Schools:-

The water supply for Burton Overy School is unsatisfactory.

Swimming Baths and Pools:-

No. in District: Public, none. Private, one which is spring fed.

Camping Sites:-

None used and no licenses have been issued.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the year:-

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ..	50
Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	150
(2) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	50
Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	150
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	10
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	40

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	28

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	16
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-	
(a) By Owners	4
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-	
(a) By Owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 10

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .. .. Nil

4. Housing Act, 1935: Overcrowding.

(a) i. Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year 2

ii. Number of families dwelling therein 2

iii. Number of persons dwelling therein 11

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year Nil

(c) i. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year Nil

ii. Number of persons concerned in such cases .. Nil

(d) Number of cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after Local Authority had taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding Nil

Number of houses erected during the year:-

By Local Authority	Nil
By other bodies or persons	135

INSPECTION and SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk:-

Retailers.

No. on Register	45
Premises - Total No. of inspections	20

Producers: (including Producers who retail their own milk).

No. on Register	120
No. of inspections made	68

Contraventions:-	Found.	Remedied.
Cleansing	14	12
Structural alterations	6	4

No licences were granted by the District Council under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders 1936 and 1938.

There are about 1,500 Milch cows in the District.

Meat and other Foods:-

No. of public abattoirs in district	None
" " knacker yards " "	None

Private Slaughter-houses:-	In January 1938.	In December 1938.
No. registered	2	2
No. licensed	3	3
No. of inspections of premises other than at times of slaughter		17
No. of inspections of meat at time of slaughter		30

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected	12	-	2	30	10
All Diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	2	-	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis Only					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-

Meat Shops, Meat Stores etc.:-

No. of inspections 12

Places where food (other than meat) is kept or prepared for sale:-

No. of inspections .. .. Nil

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The notified cases of Infectious Diseases were as follows:-

	Total Cases notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	1	1	-
Diphtheria	3	2	1
Pneumonia	4	-	6
Erysipelas	1	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	2	-
Puerperal pyrexia	1	1	-

DIPHTHERIA:- Two cases were notified at Great Glen and one case was notified at Thurnby.

SCARLET FEVER:- One case at Hungarton.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS:- Two cases at Burton Overy.

No cases of OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM came under observation.

The TUBERCULOSIS RECORD for the year is as follows:-

Age-Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Other forms.		Respiratory.		Other forms.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
10 and under 15 years	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
55 " " 65 "	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 years and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Totals:-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-

One of the fatal cases occurred at the County Sanatorium and one in Wigston.

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925, nor was any action called for under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The following examinations were made at the County Council's Laboratory:-

Sputa for Tuberculosis	26
Urine for Tuberculosis	6
Swabs for Diphtheria	36
Urine (General and Bacteriological)	17
Milk examinations (Bacteriological)	150
Sewage and water analyses	55
Miscellaneous	10
Total:-	300

Factories, Workshops & Workplaces:-

1. Inspections:-

Factories (with mechanical power)	No. of inspections	-
	No. of written notices	-
Factories (without mechanical power)	No. of inspections	24
	No. of written notices	-
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises)	No. of inspections	40
	No. of written notices	-
Totals:-	Inspections	64
	Written notices	Nil

2. Defects found:-

Want of ventilation:-	Found	Nil
	Remedied	Nil

3. Outwork in unwholesome premises:- Nil

It was not found necessary to refer any matters to H.M. Inspector of Factories.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

J. E. O'CONNOR, M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Kirby Muxloe,

Leicester.

30th June, 1938.